

# COBBETT'S WEEKLY POLITICAL REGISTER.

[609]  
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London, Saturday, 29th May, 1802.

[Price 10d.]

TENTS.—French Commer. Plans, 609. Chaptal's Letter, 609. American Exports, 610. New Books, 619. Verses on the Peace, 620. India Comp. Report, 622. Proceed. in Parl., 625. St. Domingo Intelligence, 628. Negro Slavery, 632. Commercial Projects, 633. Mr. Dundas, 635. Bull Baiting, 636.

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## TO THE EDITOR.

Sir,

Succeeding events frequently give unexpected importance to circumstances, which at the time excited little or no attention. Of this kind was the publication of a circular letter, which the French minister of the Interior, Citizen Chaptal, addressed to the Chambers of Commerce in the different seaports and maritime towns of the Republic, just before the meeting of the Congress at L'Imiens.\* Our heads then were hardly be-

\* "Paris Nov. 22, 1801.

The moment is arrived, Citizens, when commerce will resume its activity, and receive all the extension of which it is capable.

I request you, therefore, to send me your answers to the following questions, with the reasons which they are founded, and the conclusions you draw:

I. Are you of opinion that it would be advantageous for commerce to re-establish the great companies which formerly existed, such as the India Company, the African Company, the Senegal Company, &c.?—If you answer in the affirmative, under what form and conditions would it be proper to establish them?

II. What are the changes that have taken place in our commercial relations with our colonies in America? Do the new order of things introduced by the revolution, and the present state of culture, require new measures of administration better adapted to circumstances?

III. Are there in our Navigation Laws regulations relative to foreign vessels, which oppose any obstacles to our connexions with the powers of the North of Europe? What are the means best calculated to augment those connexions, and give them new activity?

IV. Does not the state of our commercial marine require that measures should be taken to favour maritime expeditions, by giving greater facilities for the purchase and construction of merchant ships, for the formation of the crews, and for increased economy in our navigation?

V. Do the tariff of the customs in 1791, the laws and regulations passed since, and which are still in force, give rise to any complaints? and what is the nature of such complaints?

VI. What are the obstacles which our commerce experiences in foreign countries in consequence of their regulations and their customs? POINT OUT THE COUNTRIES WHERE THESE OBSTACLES EXIST, the articles which they attack, and the reasons for objecting to them.

VII. What is your opinion of the most economical means of procuring money for keeping up your

ginning to cool from "the delirium of joy." Philanglus was still dreaming of visionary empires to be added to the British crown amidst the inmost wilds of North America; not "antres vast and deserts idle," Sir, but regions teeming with the softest, warmest, and most delicate catskins. Mr. Chalmers had not yet calculated half our incredible gains by his new rule of three in moral arithmetic. The constant admirers of the French revolution in all its diversified shapes had not quite abandoned their ten years occupation, which the constant admirers of the Treasury had but recently taken up, of dealing out daily panegyrics on the harmless, peaceable, philanthropic disposition of the fraternizing republic. The pompous promises of new resources, which an increased trade was to furnish for the more fortunate assertion of our honour at some better opportunity, had not lost all their dazzling effect on our imaginations. Above all, we were taught to look forward with confident expectation, that, although the preliminary articles were silent, yet our commercial interests would be found in the definitive treaty to have derived fresh security from the diplomatic "conciliation and firmness" of Lord Cornwallis, who was represented to us as another Duke of Marlborough, resistless alike in the cabinet and the field.

Appearing at such a moment, Sir, the paper to which I allude; though it was inserted in several of our own public prints, may probably have escaped the notice, or long since have passed away from the memory, of the greater part of your readers. It is in itself, however, worthy of being rescued from oblivion in your Register; and we must now learn to study with more than common care whatever can illustrate the temper and views of those with whom we

port, the best means of conducting the works, and superintending the administration of that branch?

"Such, Citizens, are the first points on which I am desirous of receiving information from you, in order to lay the foundation of the principles and regulations which it will be my duty to propose to the government.

(Signed) "CHAPTEL"

have to deal, since the noble marquis, after all, has left our commercial interests just where he found them:—at the mercy of men, who feel our maritime power to be the great obstacle to their universal dominion, and who know that power to rest altogether on the basis and support of our mercantile navigation.

Out of seven heads of inquiry, which the circular letter of the French minister proposes, no less than four point directly to the plans, which that government is known to entertain, for sapping the foundations of our naval strength. The IIId and IVth questions clearly indicate the artifices, by which they hope to unite in a sort of commercial alliance against us, all those maritime and continental powers, which she has not already bound in leagues offensive and defensive, or does not hold attached in still more immediate dependence: the Vth and VIth plainly betray their design of excluding our trade and navigation from their ports. The style too of all the four is deserving of remark. They are all contrived with the greatest address for the purpose of suggesting the answer which the writer desired; while the rest relating only to matters of internal policy and domestic regulation, are left open to the admission of fair and impartial information.

In one of your former numbers,\* Mr. Cobbett, you gave some extracts from a curious work of HAUTERIVE, the principal person under Citizen TALLEYRAND in the foreign office. As you gave them, I confess, they appeared to me a little mutilated and confused; their meaning, however, was but too intelligible. It was there avowed to be the fixed policy of France, whenever peace should arrive, to invite the nations of the north to a free communication of trade, even of the coasting trade, and all but the colonial, of which the moderate and generous republic happening to possess a lion's share, is determined to keep it, if possible, entirely to herself; and the condition of this confederacy is to be, that they shall impose restrictions on the ships, manufactures, and merchandizes of Great-Britain, unless we permit Lord Hawkesbury to make a surrender of our Navigation Act in addition to all our political and commercial treaties with Holland, the Netherlands, France, Spain, and Portugal. This was the public declaration of the foreign office in France before the conclusion of the war; the lan-

guage of the home-department since the peace is in perfect unison. Citizen CHATTEL sets out with asking, whether there existed in the Custom-house any regulations, which stood in the way of a closer connexion with the northern nations?—a fact which admitted no dispute; the expediency of doing every thing, that may be necessary to improve the connexion, is then tacitly assumed; and the remaining inquiry regards merely the means of carrying this policy into effect: to which, what could be the return but this?—"Remove the obstacles, which all agree to stand in the way."

The fourth question looks more specious. But no person, Sir, is better acquainted with the secret object, than yourself. Next to the North of Europe, the views of France are directed towards the United States. Now ship-building, as we all know, is one principal trade of America. Very few masters indeed clear from her ports without an authority in their pockets to sell their vessels, if they can obtain their price. France formerly was a considerable market for this kind of dealing; but the first or second set of revolutionists—I forget which—aiming to imitate that Navigation Act of Great-Britain, which is become the theme of unceasing invective to their successors, were pleased to prohibit these purchases, not much to the satisfaction of America: indeed Mr. Jefferson himself, in his celebrated report to the Congress in 1793, like a fond, though disappointed lover, with a tone more of sorrow than anger, ventured to breathe one murmur of half stifled complaint against this decree. Since that period the war has annihilated the commercial marine of France. She has not vehicles to transport a small part even of her present reduced trade, and she cannot wait the slow process of building for her own use. At present, therefore, she is willing to repeat (or perhaps I should rather say, to suspend) the prohibition which she so recently issued; and hopes thus at once to supply her own immediate wants, and afford a popular topic to her numerous and zealous partisans in the United States.

Without staying for the answer of the chambers of commerce, the measure was actually taken; and at the very commencement of the present year †, public notice was given on the other side of the Atlantic, that the Consul-General of France had re-



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riority to grant French registers, or licences, to American vessels, and to allow of their being still navigated by American sailors. There is a quick and ready supply of tonnage and men to any requisite amount, transferred without difficulty from the collective trade of America, to the revived legal trade of France with the West-Indies, and if the French merchants are a little short of *capital*, the Americans, though they are not famous for such sort of *confidence*, will be obliged to lend them *credit*, that the quantity of their shipping, lately employed in carrying colonial produce circuitously to the markets of Europe, but now likely to be thrown upon their hands, may not lie rotting in their harbours. Neither are the FIRST CONSUL, and his Citizen Ministers, attentive to the other great nursery of men, the fisheries. The whalers of Nantucket, we are now told, are to be admitted again to their old privileges in the Port of Dunkirk. I can also inform you, Mr. Cobbitt, that the French at this moment are making every exertion to buy up British fishing-vessels, and to enveigle British fishermen into their employ; and it is with sorrow, I add, that they have met with much more success, than any true lover of his country can hear without regret and alarm. May they not find their success still more facilitated here by the operation of the late politic tax on our navigation already struggling with the burthen of a disadvantageous competition, and on the import of every article of naval stores, for all which we are dependent on foreign countries!

The tariff of 1791, which is the next subject of inquiry, is not so covered with venerable dust, that it might be supposed to be already antiquated. But that it should want revision in all its parts, would not surprise any man, who has at all studied the perfect works of the constituent assembly, as the constitution-mongers of that day called it, because for a monarchy respected and loved during fourteen centuries, it had its enlightened philosophy substituted a royal democracy, which was too feeble to maintain itself for a single year, and which all the subsequent changes and revolutions of power no man has ever thought of establishing. The truth is, however, that the tariff of 1791 was accommodated to the commercial treaty with Great-Britain. This was its original sin, which demanded a complete regeneration. It required no management to draw an opinion and advice to effect from the chambers of commerce. No desire, that they would state their com-

plaints, if they had any to offer, was in fact only to desire, that they would repeat to more willing ears the same objections, which many of them, in 1786, carried to the foot of the throne, and published to the world, after their sovereign had irrevocably bound his faith by a solemn treaty, which in those respects allowed of no alteration, no supplemental arrangements, no constructive modifications. A new tariff has accordingly been framed for the purpose of excluding our commerce; and whilst I am writing, the FIRST CONSUL, not yet satisfied, has applied for new authority “to raise or lower the duties of customs, to allow or forbid the establishment of magazines, and prohibit or permit the importation or exportation of all commodities;” provisionally at his sole discretion; not with any intention of relaxing the prohibitions against British manufactures, but (as the design was officially explained) the better to secure the manufacturers of France against “a sudden scarcity of raw materials, or the sudden irruption of rival articles,” by occasional measures taken not only with promptitude but even with secrecy.

But the VIth question is open and direct in its tendency. There is no pretext, no dissimulation, no concealment to impose on the softest simplicity. The chambers of commerce are directed TO NAME THE COUNTRIES, where French commerce experiences any obstacles in consequence of custom-house regulations; and the reasons for objecting to them. To such a direction what alone could be the answer? HAUTERIVE had already given it. “It is strange,” says he, “that, for more than a century, ENGLAND ONLY has published a Navigation Act, that may be termed an authoritative injunction to all nations and to every people, those of Britain and the United States excepted; and that this law of perpetual war should never have been answered by a law of reprisals.”

When the late Chancellor of the Exchequer, in the hope of being able to disembarass his administration from the prosecution of the war, was systematically lowering the pride and spirit of the people to the tone of his too sincere negotiations, he was perpetually filling our ears and flattering our expectations with “the accustomed relations of peace and amity.” Now, Sir, I was so dull as always to look upon commerce, as one of the principal of those relations: and I was perhaps confirmed in this error by perceiving, that all our most illustrious statesmen of former times be-

stowed the greatest labour to accomplish beneficial treaties of commercial intercourse with France. They constantly made them the price of war or of peace, as we were led by our own interests, and the safety of Europe, to succour or to oppose the French arms. But this "trash and trumpery" (as, I think, a learned lord's phrase is) of our ill-informed and narrow-minded ancestors found nothing similar to itself in the original and expansive genius of *Lord Hawkesbury*. With "an hereditary disposition to "office" the noble Secretary of State joins an hereditary disposition to regulate trade, and if we may believe his lordship, not rejected by our adversaries, but acting from his own free judgment, he has voluntarily chosen, since he cannot set off on his march to Paris during this armed truce, to amuse himself at home with the bloodless battles of the Custom-house, tariff drawn up in array against tariff, and cocket skirmishing with cocket. There is much courage in this, and I heartily wish him success, but where in the mean-time, Sir, are the accustomed relations of peace and amity?

It may appear to many, Mr. Cobbet, that it was by no means necessary at this time of day to comment so much in detail on the paper, which is the subject of this letter. It is true, not a day passes, which does not furnish some clear and unequivocal proof of avowed hostility to our navigation and commerce. But the lullaby, which is now applied to still the clamours of our merchants and ship-owners, is the gentle assurance, that all this is only the temporary ebullition of subsiding animosity. It is proper therefore, that we should know our real situation. It is essential that by tracing the declarations and conduct of those, who profess themselves our eternal rivals, though they may sometimes cease for a season to bear the name of enemies, we should convince ourselves that all which is now going on has been coolly premeditated, and is resolutely executed on system. Thus only is it, that we can ever bring our minds to resist firmly and steadily all the designs of France for our injury, whether in war or peace.

I am,

Sir,

Your constant reader,

*Acatus.*

**EXPORTS of the United States, from the 1st of October, 1800, to the 30th of September, 1801.**

SPECIES OF MERCHANTIZE.	QUANTITY OR VALUE
Ashes, pot.....	tons ... 722
Do. pearl.....	do. ... 127
Apples.....	barrels ... 902
Beer, porter, and cyder, } in casks .....	gallons ... 128,552
Do. in bottles .....	dozens ... 630
Beef.....	barrels ... 73,331
Biscuit, or ship bread.....	do. ... 105,980
Do. do. ....	kegs ... 44,079
Buck-wheat.....	bushels ... 754
Barley.....	do. ... 8768
Bran and shorts.....	do. ... 333
Beans.....	do. ... 12,334
Butter.....	pounds ... 2,830,016
Boots.....	pairs ... 448
Bricks.....	numb ... 606,817
Bark, essence of.....	gallons ... 621
Corn, India.....	bushels ... 1,783,162
Cheese.....	pounds ... 1,074,534
Coffee.....	do. ... 45,105,404
Cocoa.....	do. ... 7,012,378
Chocolate.....	do. ... 48,120
Cotton.....	do. ... 20,911,901
Coal.....	bushels ... 16,384
Candles, wax.....	pounds ... 24,803
Do. spermaceti.....	do. ... 260,668
Do. tallow .....	do. ... 1,318,149
Canvas or sail cloth.....	pieces ... 150
Cables and cordage.....	cwt. ... 10,089
Cards, wool and cotton ..	dozens ... 362
Do. playing .....	packs ... 362
Copper or brass, and cop- } per manufactured	dollars ... 69,474
Coaches and other carriages	do. ... 13,468
Flour.....	barrels ... 1,102,444
Furniture, household .....	dollars ... 90,133
Flaxseed.....	bushels ... 451,200
Flax.....	pounds ... 25,900
Fish, dried or smoked...	quint. ... 410,448
Do. pickled .....	barrels ... 83,635
Do. do. ....	kegs ... 10,434
Gunpowder.....	pounds ... 85,224
Ginseng.....	do. ... 286,438
Hats.....	dollars ... 57,386
Hams and bacon .....	pounds ... 2,034,638
Hair-powder .....	do. ... 25,021
Hops .....	do. ... 70,740
Hemp .....	do. ... 581
Hides, raw .....	numb. ... 369
Horned cattle .....	do. ... 845
Horses .....	do. ... 508
Hogs .....	do. ... 7318
Iron, pig .....	tons ... 22
Do. bar .....	do. ... 70
Do. castings .....	dollars ... 22,729
Do. all manufactures of..	do. ... 300,342
Indigo .....	pounds ... 411,140
Lard .....	do. ... 2,376,500
Leather .....	do. ... 210,372
Lead .....	do. ... 658,972
Meal, rye .....	bushels ... 392,332
Do. Indian .....	do. ... 91,932
Do. buck-wheat .....	do. ... 317
Do. oat .....	bushels ... 317

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SPECIES OF MERCHANDISE.	QUANTITY OR VALUE.
Wine.....	pounds .... 2093
Grog.....	gallons .... 421,628
Molasses.....	numb. .... 433
Moles.....	dollars .... 11,900
Medicinal drugs.....	
Merchandise, & all other articles of goods not particularly enumerated. } do. .... 17,159,016	
Linseed.....	gallons .... 31,564
Spermaceti.....	do. .... 91,684
Whale.....	do. .... 215,522
Bushels.....	bushels .... 100,544
Barrels.....	do. .... 53,791
Bushels.....	barrels .... 70,779
Bushels.....	do. .... 2052
Bushels.....	bushels .... 104,186
Dozens.....	dozens .... 6457
Tierces.....	tierces .... 94,866
Bushels.....	bushels .... 31,110
Barrels.....	barrels .... 2397
Pounds.....	pounds .... 3,153,139
Do. ....	do. .... 320,417
Dollars.....	dollars .... 80,426
Gallons.....	gallons .... 520,205
Do. ....	do. .... 320,549
Do. ....	do. .... 16,920
Pairs.....	pairs .... 133,545
Dollars.....	dollars .... 261,639
Do. ....	do. .... 1976
Pounds.....	pounds .... —
Coch.....	do. .... 203,360
Do. ....	do. .... 2,558,536
Cards, brow. & other clayed refined.....	do. .... 97,565,732
Do. ....	do. .... 168,479
Numb. ....	numb. .... 11,621
Stuff.....	cwt. .... 1986
F. ....	bushels .... 70,067
Acco, manufactured.....	pounds .... 52,297
Do. unmanufactured	do. .... 472,282
Hogsh. ....	hogsh. .... 103,758
Pow. ....	pounds .... 37,142
.....	barrels .... 67,487
Pentine.....	do. .... 35,413
Do. spirits of. ....	gallons .... 4783
Bohea.....	pounds .... 669,208
Souchong.....	do. .... 211,920
Hyson.....	do. .... 438,843
Other green.....	do. .... 39,277
Cat.....	bushels .... 239,929
Slebone.....	pounds .... 23,105
Do. ....	do. .... 177,388
Madeira.....	gallons .... 29,401
All other.....	do. .... 1,447,358
Do. bottled.....	do. .... 54,993
Wood, staves and heading	numb. .... 37,189,499
Shingles.....	do. .... 81,044,316
Hoops and poles.....	do. .... 3,732,085
Boards, planks, &c. ....	feet .... 71,629,831
Timber.....	tons .... 9657
All other, & lumber, dollars.....	dollars .... 61,070
Oak, bark, & other dye do. ....	31,043
All manufactures of do. ....	170,027

Summary of the Value and Destination  
of the Exports of the United States, agreeably to the above Statement.

DESTINATION.  
Russia. ....

DOLLARS.  
9136

DESTINATION.	DOLLARS.
Prussia. ....	120,288
Sweden. ....	39,176
Swedish West-Indies. ....	198,632
	232,208
Denmark and Norway. ....	531,825
Danish West-Indies. ....	1,049,361
	1,581,136
United Netherlands. ....	6,234,450
Dutch West-Indies and American colonies. }	625,791
Dutch East-Indies. ....	62,131
	6,922,372
England, Isle of Man, and Berwick. ...	25,309,334
Scotland. ....	3,006,599
Ireland. ....	2,578,367
Gibraltar. ....	204,627
Guernsey, Jersey, Sark, &c. ....	38,821
Cape of Good Hope. ....	283,918
British East-Indies. ....	71,617
British West-Indies. ....	9,599,722
Newfoundland and British fisheries. ....	125,305
British American colonies. ....	615,722
	42,132,032
Imperial ports. ....	52,459
Hamburg, Bremen, &c. ....	10,463,738
France. ....	3,985,292
French West-Indies. ....	7,147,972
Bourbon and Mauritius. ....	75,814
Other French African ports. ....	52,673
	11,261,751
Spain. ....	2,865,101
Teneriffe and other Canaries. ....	267,664
Honduras, Campeachy, &c. ....	100,210
Spanish West-Indies. ....	8,437,659
Floridas and Louisiana. ....	1,408,029
Other Spanish American colonies. ....	532,153
	13,610,816
Portugal. ....	1,139,377
Madeira. ....	528,344
Fayal and other Azores. ....	5120
Cape-de-Verds. ....	45,918
	1,718,756
Morocco. ....	89,740
Italy. ....	2,090,439
China, and East-Indies generally. ....	1,374,506
West-Indies. ....	372,932
Africa. ....	367,705
Europe. ....	278,158
North West Coast of America. ....	343,338
Total.... Dollars....	93,020,513
Sterling.... £20,929,615	

## CRITICAL NOTICES OF NEW BOOKS.

25. *The Crisis of the Sugar Colonies, &c. &c. Addressed to the Right Hon. Henry Addington.*—This is a work of extensive information on a subject of great importance. The principal object of the writer appears to be to prevent Mr. Addington from further encouraging the slave trade, as it at present exists, and particularly from permitting that trade to be carried on for the purpose of stocking Trinidad with negroes. If we disagree with the author, as we certainly do, on this point, we perfectly concur with him in opinion respecting the consequences of the French expedition to St. Domingo, and we regret extremely, that our limits do not at present permit us to make a very long extract from this part of his pamphlet, which we beg leave to recommend to the attention of all those, who still think that the West-India colonies are worth preserving.

26. *A second Edition of Sir Frederick M. Eden's Letter on the Peace, &c. &c. with considerable Additions.*—Whatever can be said in favour of the peace Sir Frederick has certainly said; and, if our readers should be of opinion that his arguments have not been confuted by Mr. Cobbett (in his Letters to Lord Hawkesbury and Mr. Addington) the Letters of Sir Frederick cannot fail to yield them great consolation. This being a new edition of a work, which we noticed before, we should not have repeated our notice, were we not desirous to promote a fair examination of the merits of that peace, concerning which we entertain notions precisely the opposite of those entertained by the author.

27. *Substance of the Speech of the Right Hon. Sir Wm. Scott, delivered in the House of Commons, April 7, 1802, upon a Motion for leave to bring in a Bill, relative to the Non-residence of the Clergy, and other Affairs of the Church.*—The information contained in this pamphlet has long been sought for in vain; and it is now communicated to the public at a time when the momentous subject, to which it more immediately relates, is under the consideration of his Majesty's Parliament. That a strict adherence to the rules and laws of residence would be desirable, every man, and particularly every zealous friend to the church, will certainly allow; but that such an adherence would not only be a great hardship on a considerable portion of the clergy, but would be absolutely impossi-

ble, is clearly proved by this speech, in which it is stated, that out of "eleven thousand seven hundred and odd livings" in the kingdom, about one moiety of the whole are under fifty pounds a year, and, "upon an average, less than twenty pounds a year." From a source so high, so fertile in information, and so indisputably pure, misrepresentation cannot be suspected; while, then, one half of the livings in the kingdom are of this trifling amount, where is the man, with the least pretensions to justice, and with the least desire not to leave the parishes without any clergyman at all, who can refuse his assent to a law for remedying the evil complained of? As to the mode of remedy we must refer the reader to the speech itself, and to the discussions, which will, doubtless, take place in the several stages of the bill.

28. *An Inquiry into the Nature and Effects of the Paper Credit of Great-Britain. By Henry Thornton, Esq. M. P.*—A work of great use in the study of commerce and finance.

29. *A Political Essay on the Commerce of Portugal and her Colonies, &c. &c. Translated from the Portuguese.*—This also is a work of great utility, particularly at this time.

## VERSES OCCASIONED BY THE PEACE.

Thy soft approach, O Peace, when millions hail,  
And gratulation floats on every gale,  
Why frowns the PATRIOT on the public joy?  
Why thus his breast with boding cares annoy?  
Is it that now no more his counsels charm  
The Sov'reign's ear, or nerve the soldier's arm?  
Is it that touch'd with envy, spleen, or shame,  
He seeks to wound a rising Statesman's fame?  
Ah! no!—such arts his lofty mind disdains,  
Free to avow its pleasures or its pains.  
Of Peace he knows the worth, but weighs the cost,  
And thinks the glories of his country lost.  
With clear prophetic eye, in time's dark womb,  
He reads the annals of the age to come;  
And sees a vast gigantic pow'r unfus'd,  
That aims to grasp the empire of the world.

High o'er his peers, his brows with laurel bound,  
A youthful chief in deeds of arms renown'd  
Assumes the reigns; a mighty nation's head,  
The soldiers' darling, and the subjects' dread.  
Obsequious allies crouch beneath his rod,  
And Monarchs tremble at a Consul's nod.

[1] Britain alone maintains her wonted state,  
Great in arms, in arts and commerce great.  
Britain alone awakes his secret dread,  
And haunts the victor slumb'ring on his bed.  
Long as her fleets the subject seas control,  
And bear her thunders to each distant pole;  
Long as her merchants crowd each foreign port,  
And the world's wealth on ev'ry wave import;  
Long as her sons with gen'rous ardour glow,  
The first in freedom's cause to brave the foe;  
France knows how vain, to stem the flowing tide,  
And meet the lord of ocean in his pride.  
Patient and slow she waits an happier hour,  
To sap the broad foundations of his pow'r.  
From court to court, from clime to clime she sends,  
With threats alarms, with soothing flatt'ry bends,  
In ev'ry realm the rights of trade to bar,  
And wage with Britain a clandestine war.  
Should guile prevail, and Europe couching low,  
With tame submission to her mandate bow;  
Again, her potent rival lull'd asleep,  
Her fleets shall ride in triumph o'er the deep;  
Her peopled towns their pristine arts restore,  
And her proud commerce stretch from shore to shore.  
Then Father Thames, awak'ning from his dream,  
Shall mourn the ravish'd honours of his stream,  
There late he saw his lofty navies ride,  
A dreadful pomp arranged on either side;  
Fair nurs'ry of a brave and generous race,  
Whose gallant deeds their country's annals grace:  
Where late he saw, from London's gloomy cells,  
The tribe whom secret thirst of gain impels,  
On his broad banks display the shining stores  
That either Ind' in gay profusion pours:  
No more he hears the seamen's cries resound,  
Nor sees the products of each clime around.  
On the lone beach the pensive merchant stands,  
And views with tearful eye and wringing hands,  
The shipless rivers and deserted strands.  
Time source of power, when commerce quits her  
shore,  
Then Britain's sun shall set—to rise no more.

Apart and musing on the mournful theme,  
Nor fondly caught in a delusive dream,  
His country's honour glowing in his breast,  
Nor hope, nor fear, the PATRIOT's zeal express.  
On the full senate flash'd a beam of light,  
And times yet distant open'd on their sight.  
With silent awe and deep attention sate  
The fathers, list'ning to the stern debate,  
That thrill'd thro' ev'ry nerve—from man to man,  
Wit thro' the realm the shiv'ring impulse ran.

With jealous doubts and anxious fears imprest,  
His dark forebodings throb'd in ev'ry breast.  
All seem'd to see, athwart the hov'ring gloom,  
Their feeble rulers sealing England's doom.

## AFFAIRS OF INDIA.

The Special Committee of the Court Directors have made a report relative to the Private Trade with India, and to the affairs of the Company, as far, at least, as those affairs have been affected by the "dangerous" system of Mr. Dundas, which, it appears, found but one advocate in the whole Court of Directors, and that one was Mr. Scott, who has since retired from his situation. The principal object of the report, appears to be to show the destructive consequences of any extension of the Private Trade; and, in the pursuit of this object, the Committee are naturally led to comment, with that degree of severity which the case amply justifies, on the mistakes, the mis-statements, and pertinacity of the late President of the Board of Control. They have, in our opinion, fully proved, that his system is pregnant with danger, and that he left the affairs of the Company in a much worse state than that in which he found them. As this is a subject of vast public importance, we shall not be afraid of trespassing on the patience of our readers in the extracts, which we mean to make from this report.

" If your Committee decline, for the sake of brevity, to extend their observations and arguments on many parts of this subject, they feel themselves compelled to take notice of a letter from Mr. Dundas, which he has printed, under date the 30th of June, 1801. The Right Honourable Gentleman, on retiring from office, has represented India, and the affairs of the Company, in the most prosperous situation; and, in the event of peace, capable of reducing the debt in India, within reasonable and proper bounds, many years before the expiration of the Company's charter.

" The letter above referred to being in the nature of an appeal to public opinion, unwillingly forces itself upon your Committee's notice. That Mr. Dundas has not properly appreciated the importance and extent of the claims of the Indian Agents, your Committee trust they have distinctly proved in this and their former reports; and they have too much reason to fear that the exclusive trade, as regulated by the Act of 1793, is not only necessary, but indispensable, as a resource to save the Company from destruction. It must always be remembered that every part of Mr. Dundas's plan, whether it relates to the flattering prospects held out to the Company at home, or to the relief and prosperity of the empire in India, depend wholly and solely upon the Company's commerce;—but whilst the means of applying every commercial aid with speed and ef-

fect, are far beyond what he could have expected on the 30th of June last, in consequence of the peace; yet the few months which have intervened, have been more than sufficient to convince the Court, that Mr. Dundas was mistaken as to the real situation of the Company's affairs in India; for the whole of his estimates are completely destroyed, in consequence of the advices since received from thence.

Mr. Dundas (we quote his own words) says, 'When I saw the amount of the debt rise to above ten millions bearing interest, and still likely to increase, I thought it my duty to state to you the propriety of restoring to India, from your Treasury at home, a part of that balance, &c.'—Again—' And this led me to state that I was ready to meet the Indian debt even at the large amount of fourteen millions.'

" Every person conversant with the affairs of India, will concur with Mr. Dundas that the safety of the Empire depends (amongst other things) upon the comparative magnitude of the debt. He was alarmed, and with reason, when the amount was ten millions; but as an exertion, and with a responsibility of which he appears to have felt the weight, he was ready to meet it, on the 30th of June, 1801, at the LARGE AMOUNT of fourteen millions; and although peace was not then made, he calculated upon peace, and upon the debt not exceeding fourteen millions. In the first point he has been fortunate;—with regard to the last, we shall now proceed to examine.

" The Indian debt on the 30th of April, 1800, was as follows:—

	<i>At Interest.</i>	<i>Interest due.</i>	<i>Arrears and other Debts.</i>
Bengal*	£8,512,298	£419,701	£1,342,014
Madras†	2,325,173	80,000	194,432
Bombay‡	1,263,263	54,731	179,138
Bencoolen..	16,675	.....	41,292
	£12,117,409	£554,433	£1,760,378
Total.....		£14,432,717	

From a cursory view of the accounts and estimates received within a few days from India by the Georgina Packet, it appears that the increase of debts at Bengal and Bombay for 12 months, and Madras for 6 months, amounted to... That Bengal proposes to borrow more than will be paid off in the ensuing year..... That Bombay proposes to do the same for..... And that the letter from Madras, dated the 2d September, 1801, states, that they had borrowed 30 lacs of pagodas, or.....

" After an addition of this magnitude to the estimate made by Mr. Dundas, it is unnecessary for your Committee to pursue their enquiries further on this subject at the moment; but they trust that they have demonstrated the opinion they entertain of the sanguine estimate formed by Mr. Dundas; and

\* 2s. the Current Rupee.

† 8s. the Pagoda.

‡ 2s. 3d. the Rupee.

still more, that the difficulties which the Company have to encounter will require the aid of every resource to enable them to surmount. However discouraging this prospect may be, it is aggravated by circumstances which never existed before. The establishments are increased, the political resources are absorbed, and it is further intended to deprive the Company of a material part of the resources they actually possess, under pretence of contributing towards the prosperity of the Indian Empire. The last time that the Company appeared before Parliament, *in forma pauperis*, was in the year 1783. In consequence of the war, debts had been incurred, and the resources of the Company had been absorbed in such a manner as to require parliamentary relief. The relief they solicited on that account was to suspend the payment of £924,862, due to the Public for duties on the Company's goods, for a further time, and to prolong the payment of bills drawn from India until the goods, for which those bills were drawn, could be sold; but no new money was raised, either by the Public or the Company, on the occasion: and trifling as that relief may appear when compared with the wants of the present day, it was sufficient to extricate the Company from every difficulty abroad and at home.

" It cannot, however, be denied, that the distress of the Company in the year 1783, was great. At that time Mr. Dundas took upon himself the administration of Indian affairs; and therefore we will venture to make a comparison between the period of distress in which he began his administration, and the state in which he has left the Company's affairs on retiring from office.

" The report of the Court of Directors, dated the 23d January, 1784, and laid before the House of Commons (which was approved and defended by Mr. Dundas,) states distinctly the revenues and debts of India, according to the last accounts which could be obtained at that period.

The net revenue of India, exclusive of the profit on salt and opium, was £1,091,545. The salt and opium, although they have produced much more, was at that time estimated at only.... 400,000

Net surplus at that time..... £1,491,545

" This surplus was subject to charges, and particularly to the interest of the debts in India. The salt and opium are estimated at no more than £400,000, but produced, for an average of above twenty years, £800,000 per annum.

By the accounts laid before the House of Commons the 5th of May, 1801, the surplus net revenue was .... £664,397. It appeared, at the same time, that the interest upon debts bearing interest was ....., 1,082,204

Leaving a deficiency of..... £417,806

" Your Committee are aware that the DEFICIENCY IS MUCH LARGER, not only from additional interest on debts, but for expenses which are not included; but the difference against the annual political income of the Company, between the periods of 1783-4, and of 1801-2, is very considerable."

(To be continued.)

## PROCEEDINGS IN PARLIAMENT.

On the second reading of the Election Baiting Bill in the House of Lords (Thursday, May 20), some discussion took place. On the question being put for the committing of the bill, it was lost by 7 peers against 6. A motion was then made for the rejection of the bill, which was carried by the same numbers.

On Friday (May 21), on the question being put for the House to resolve itself into a committee on the Manure Sale Bill, Lord Holland rose, and, after some pertinent observations on the frivolous subjects which were brought before their Lordships, moved that the committee should be postponed 'till Monday next.—The question was then put, and the motion carried.

On Monday and Tuesday (21st and 22d), nothing of importance took place.

On the second reading of the Militia Regulation Bill (Wednesday, May 23), some debate took place on the motion of Earl William that the bill should be read that day three months. The motion was negatived.

In the House of Commons on Thursday (May 20), some conversation took place on the number of men to be raised by the English Militia Bill, which was read a third time and passed. The Attorney General then moved for leave to bring in bills for repealing certain parts of the Alien Act, and substituting other regulations in their place; and for repealing certain regulations of the Police Bill, and substituting others in their stead. Leave was granted for that purpose. The House was next resolved into a committee, on the Bill for regulating the Committees on Controverted Elections. Much conversation took place on the motion of Mr. Banks, that the clause for the appointment of nominees should be left out. On the committee dividing upon the question, only thirty-four members were present, and the House was therefore adjourned.

A long conversation passed in the House the next day (May 21), on the mode of sending flax seed in Ireland, so as to prevent bad seed from being imported. A bill for repealing part of the Alien Act, of which the Attorney General had given notice the preceding day, was brought in and read a first time. The Debtor Bill, after some discussion, was withdrawn by Mr. W. Wynne. The House met on Saturday (May 22), & after proceeding through some unimportant business, adjourned at four o'clock.

On Monday (May 23), after the usual business before the House had been gone through, Mr. Dent moved the second reading of the Bull-baiting Bill. The motion was seconded by Sir R. Hill. He wished, he said, to be the advocate of those poor friendless beings who could not help themselves, and were, in common justice and humanity, entitled to protection. He then read extracts from various newspapers, which related stories of bull-baiting, and also from several letters in which the practice was spoken of with abhorrence. There was nothing, he urged, in bull-baiting that excited a manly spirit. It was a cowardly proceeding. The present bill was the beginning of a system of humanity and peace, and he hoped gentlemen would have no objection to signing a definitive treaty between the dog and the bull; a measure which he hoped would be as well supported as the definitive treaty between this country and France, which had given such general satisfaction.—The measure was opposed by Mr. Windham in a speech of exquisite wit and great argument. Better ground, he said, ought to have been taken than had been taken by the supporters of the bill now before the House. Though the subject must be ludicrously treated, it was a serious matter that it should occupy their attention at such a period. In the midst of the most important affairs, the House was occupied with bull-baiting. Did the custom call for this immediate interference? Was it a growing evil? No. It was daily vanishing away. At Norwich only two bull-baits could be remembered in twenty years, and he believed it was the same all over the kingdom. This bill was one instance of a practice which he was sorry to see gaining ground, of legislating upon every trifling occasion. Every measure of this kind increased the number of penal statutes, and consequently increased the danger there was of the authority conferred by them being vexatiously used. The House ought to see things on a large scale; but in the present instance it had been employed in poring through a microscope. This bill was part of a plan for reforming, as it was called, the manners of the people: those who had been disappointed in reforming the constitution had now turned their hands to the people. Some of the parties to this design he must consider as descended from the Puritans of old, and divide into Methodists and Jacobins. Many marks indicated their common ancestry. The Puritans hated lewd sports and Antichristian pastimes, as they called the amusements of

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2,100,000
600,000
400,000
£1,200,000

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the lower orders; so did the Methodists. They would destroy the social character, and convert men into sour morose beings. They hated sports, because the followers of those sports were unfit for their purposes. It was not to those who joined these sports, but to the gloomy, austere, discontented, methodistical character, that a Jacobin would apply for the furtherance of his designs. The Jacobin missionary would pass by the bull-bait, but stop at the meeting-house. Both wished to destroy the old English character. "Read," says the Methodist; "aye, do," says the Jacobin, "we shall then get you to read the Rights of Man." It was stated by Mr. Capel Loft, in a preface to a poem of merit written by Mr. Bloomfield, a shoemaker, that whilst Mr. Bloomfield worked along with several others, he was employed to read the newspapers, and attended a debating society; and it seemed to be a subject of exceeding great regret to Mr. Loft that these rational amusements were discouraged. This bill favoured the views of those who wished to turn the common people into politicians, but those views should meet his utmost opposition. Let the lower classes keep their sports, and the higher conduct the business of the state. To looking at one part only of a subject he was a decided enemy. If bull-baiting was cruel, so was hunting, fishing, and shooting, and ought likewise to be abolished. It had been said that the love of cruelty was what produces bull-baiting; but he denied this to be the stimulative to that or any of the sports he had mentioned. Bull-baiting, it was said, threw a place into confusion; but what then did a horse-race do? A horse-race collected together all the sharpers of all parts, and hindered the prosecution of business for days; yet an hon. gentleman (Mr. Wilberforce) had leaped over nine horse-races in his own county, and seen nothing wrong 'till he came upon his legs at a bull-bait in Staffordshire. The conduct of the hon. gentleman put him in mind of the butcher, who ran about scolding for his knife, while he had it, all the time, in his mouth. For his own part he could not consent to take from the lower class of the people every amusement they enjoyed. Nor could he think the sport had that cruelty in it which was laid to its charge. It was well known that a bull which had been used to the sport enjoyed a pleasure from it. If the present bill was suffered to pass, he would bring in another to abolish hunting, angling, and shooting; but he would repeat his declaration, that cruelty was not the character of those who followed

these sports, or even bull-baiting. It was to be found in specious, plausible men—razors set in oil. He was followed by Mr. Courtney, who entered into an ironical defence of bull baiting. In reply to the arguments of Mr. Windham, it was urged by Mr. Wilberforce and Mr. Sheridan, that the evidence of cruelty in bull-baiting was too strong to be overthrown; that it was a reproach to the lower orders to say that they must have such a sport; that it was bad argument to say that because one evil was not abolished, another must be suffered to subsist; and that the practice, which this bill was intended to abolish, so far from making a people manly and generous, could only make them cowardly and malignant. The arguments of Mr. Windham were defended by Mr. Frankland in a speech of great spirit and ability. Contrasting with great force the hunting and death of a stag with the baiting of a bull, he asked which was the most cruel? Yet the one practice was to be sanctioned by law, the other was to be abolished. Such schemes as the present could have no effect but to reduce the people to sedentary and unmanly pursuits.—On the division, the second reading of the bill was negatived by 64 votes against 51.

On Tuesday (May 25), after several bills had been read, and accounts received, the Irish Law Courts Bill was withdrawn, on the suggestion of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, who said it would be proper to defer the consideration of it till the next session, that, in the interval, the assistance of a noble friend of his, now in Ireland, in the highest situation of the law, might be obtained.

Nothing particular occurred on Wednesday (May 26). A clause was introduced into the Alien Bill, which was ordered to be received the next day; the Sinking Fund Bill was committed for Wednesday next; and a sum of £173,535 was granted in a committee of supply for the relief of the suffering clergy and laity of France, Corsica, and St. Domingo sufferers, and American loyalists.

#### FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

*St. Domingo, March 9, 1802.*—A letter from General Leclerc, of this date, informs the French Government, that Port-au-Prince, where he then was, had been preserved uninjured; that the southern part of the colony had been preserved, by means of the black General Laplume, who had abandoned Toussaint; and that the whole of the Spanish part, the inhabitants of which had formed a line of defence against the blacks, had also been preserved; but,

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from a subsequent part of the letter it appears, that Toussaint had, at one time, made an irruption into the Spanish part, and that he had been guilty of great cruelty. Great quantities of ammunition had been found in several of the mountains, where it had been deposited by Toussaint. Provisions were beginning to arrive from France. The black chiefs are said to live in great luxury, and to wear silver spurs on their naked legs.

*March 26.*—A letter from General Leclerc, of this date, gives an account of the taking of the Mornes and Forts of La Crete à Pierrot, twenty-four miles from St. Mark. In advancing to the attack of these important posts, Leclerc states, that General Hardy surrounded 600 negroes, all of whom he put to the sword. After giving a narrative of the attack, the letter concludes thus: “we found in the fort a powder magazine, the baggage and band of Dessalines, and a great many muskets, and fifteen pieces of cannon. The enemy has lost in these combats more than three thousand men; but though he fought with great boldness behind the walls, he shewed little in the open field. Our loss has been considerable, and we have had in all these engagements 500 men killed or wounded. Meanwhile Toussaint, after having been defeated and dispersed at Gonaïves, early in March, had retired into the woods with only 500 men. During the time the army was occupied against Dessalines, he recovered from his first fright, collected 500 more, effected a junction with Christophe, who had saved 300 men, and conceived the plan of raising the whole department of the North, and perhaps carrying the whole Cape. He presented himself at Plaisance to attack General Desfourneaux, who repulsed him briskly. Toussaint was not disengaged. He disappeared before General Desfourneaux, advanced to Dondon and Marmelade, raised a part of the cultivators of the North, and presented himself before the Cape. If the succours from Flushing and Havre had been arrived, the inhabitants of the North would have been kept down, but knowing that there was only a feeble garrison at the Cape, and deceived by the false reports which Toussaint had circulated, these unfortunate cultivators were once more led astray. General Boyer kept the enemy at a certain distance from the town, made frequent sorties, and the Cape, at least, notwithstanding, suffered no kind of injury.—General Hardy set out this day from La Crete à Pierrot, to take cantonments in the department of the North. General Rochambeau is on his march towards Gonaïves, Toussaint being in that canton. I hope that the divisions of Flushing and Havre, that which you announced to me from Brest, and that from Toulon, will speedily arrive. They will be useful to us, by enabling us to occupy cantonments upon all the points of this vast colony, which is the only means of arriving at the re-establishment of order and tranquillity. Although we have been marching forty days, we are resolved to march still, and not allow the enemy time to take breath.—I can find no terms to express the ferocity of Toussaint. He has massacred more than 10,000 inhabitants, blacks, whites, and mulattoes. We collected in our several expeditions nearly 8000 persons, men and women, whom he intended to massacre. None of the Generals are wounded mortally.

N. B. This letter encloses a copy of a dispatch from Toussaint, who calls upon his generals to kill, burn, and lay waste, rather than submit to the whites, whose intention, he says, evidently is, to restore slavery.

*April 8.*—Under this date, the French Govern-

ment has received a letter from Admiral Villaret, who, after having given a detail of the military movements, and of the distribution and state of his ships, states, that 5500 men have arrived in the frigates from Havre de Grace and in the Dutch division. He mentions his intention to return to Europe with some of his ships, and concludes in the following words: “the Spanish Government of the Havannah has hastened to furnish all the assistance which it could spare; they have granted the 500,000 piastres, which were required, and some articles of cloathing. As to provisions, American flour is dearer at the Havannah than at St. Domingo; and we are besides so far provisioned as to have no longer any uneasiness. Citizen Montquinault praises highly the frank cordiality of the Spanish Government, and the constant loyalty of Adm. Gravina, who suffers no opportunity of being useful to us to pass him. It is also just to attribute the success of the mission partly to the character and talents of this administrator. I shall send the St. Cennaro and the Libre, to-morrow, to the Havannah; the latter, in consequence of having been on shore, makes 15 inches of water in an hour. I strongly press the Spanish Government to promote the repair of these vessels, and the Captains have positive orders not to lose a day in returning to France, when they shall be in condition to sail.”

*Brest, May 21.*—*Telegraphic dispatch.*—Admiral Villaret, who left St. Domingo the 20th Germinal (April 11), with eight sail of the line of his squadron, is arrived at Brest.—There was nothing new at St. Domingo since the departure of the Fidèle. Our troops had set off again in pursuit of Toussaint.

*United States of America, April 16.*—The newspapers, under this date, inform us, that a squadron of French ships was hourly expected (some few had already arrived) to take in provisions for the army in St. Domingo, and that, the merchants being unwilling to contract for the supply, the government of the United States had engaged to furnish the quantity of provisions wanted, and had appointed commissioners to make the necessary purchases and to superintend the lading of the ships.

*Paris, May 13.*—The new arrangements relative to the Concordat have met with considerable difficulties. The Concordat itself, and the discourse of Portalis, were burned at Aix, though it has not yet appeared whether this act of violence proceeded from Jacobinical fury or Catholic zeal. Revolts are also apprehended in several of the dioceses where the constitutional bishops have been appointed.

The Legislative Body received on the 11th a project of a law from the government, for raising one hundred and twenty thousand conscripts, of whom sixty thousand are destined to replace the disbanded troops, and to complete the peace establishment, and sixty thousand are to form a reserve adequate to complete the war establishment, should the resumption of hostilities become necessary. The fact is, that upwards of one hundred thousand men belonging to the force actually on foot, having received per-

mission to return home in consequence of the general peace, the government is raising sixty thousand recruits to replace them, which will only serve to provide for the ordinary service of the frontier garrisons, the tranquillity of the interior, and the supplies which may be deemed necessary for the colonies, particularly St. Domingo.

It appears by letters from Milan, that in consequence of a decree issued by Buonaparté, the three electoral colleges of the Italian Republic have been summoned to meet upon important business.

Regnier, one of the Generals who served in Egypt, has challenged Destaing, and killed him in a duel. He has also challenged Menou, and openly reviled him, in print, for his misconduct in Egypt, to which misconduct he ascribes the success of the English. Buonaparté, who espouses the cause of his brother Abdallah Menou, has banished Regnier to a distance not less than thirty leagues from Paris.

*May 15.*—A deputation, composed of 102 members of the Legislative Body, was yesterday introduced at one o'clock to the Consuls.—Citizen Viennot Vaublanc, the orator of the deputation, declared the hearty assent of the Legislative Body to the proposition of the Senate and Tribunate, relative to the re-election of Buonaparté, who made, on this occasion, the following answer.

"The sentiments which you have just expressed, and this solemn deputation are a precious pledge of the esteem which the Legislative Body entertains for government. I was called to the supreme magistracy at a time when they could not weigh, in the calmness of reflection, the merit of their choice.

"The Republic was then torn by civil wars—the enemy threatened our frontiers; there existed neither security nor government. In such a crisis, the choice made by the people, could only be the unconsidered effect of their alarm.

"Now peace is established with all the powers of Europe, the people present the aspect of an united family, and the experience which they have made of their government, has enabled them to judge more correctly of the value of their first choice. Let them manifest their wishes with perfect frankness and independance. They shall be obeyed: whatever my destiny may be, whether Consul or Citizen, I only exist for the happiness and grandeur of France."

*May 17.*—A bill was this day presented

to the Legislative Body, the articles of which were as follows:

I. In the Colonies restored to France, in execution of the Treaty of Amiens, dated Germinal 8, year 10, slavery shall be maintained conformably to the regulations and laws anterior to 1789.—II. The case shall be the same in the other French Colonies beyond the Cape of Good Hope.—III. The slave trade and importation of slaves into the colonies shall be continued agreeably to the laws and regulations existing before the above period of 1789.—IV. Notwithstanding all anterior laws, the management of the colonies is subjected for ten years to the regulations which shall be made by Government.

It is stated from Vienna, that the flower of Paswan Oglou's army consists of Christians of almost every country in Europe, and amounts to 6000 men at farthest, whom he pays and treats in the most liberal manner. Of natives and Janissaries he can always command from 10 to 12,000 men, who are better disciplined than the troops of the Grand Seignor.

#### DOMESTIC OCCURRENCES.

Captain Mudge, of the Constance frigate, arrived in town on Wednesday the 15th inst. and on Friday a Privy Council was held to hear his relation of the transaction at Lisbon, as stated in the Register, p. 468.

On Thursday the 20th inst. a fire broke out in the Warren, at Woolwich, by which public buildings and stores were consumed to the amount of £400,000 or upwards.

On the 19th inst. Baron Silverhjelm, Minister resident from the King of Sweden, had a private audience of his Majesty to deliver his Credentials.

The officers of the fencible corps, having neither permanent rank nor half pay, are to receive the following allowances: one month's pay to each field officer and captain; and two month's pay, and daily allowances, to the captain-lieutenant, to each subaltern, and to the staff officers, from the day of disbanding, exclusive. Officers holding two appointments, are to receive the above allowances for only one of them; but the paymaster is to have a sum equal to two months full allowance as such, including the pay of his regimental commission.

Yesterday (the 28th of May) the Birth Day of the Right Hon. Wm. Pitt was celebrated, by a public dinner, at Merchant Taylor's Hall. A great number of noblemen and gentlemen were present; as many, we believe, as ever were, on any occasion, present at the Birth Day Dinner of Mr. Fox.

## SUMMARY OF POLITICS.

The Continent of Europe, though far from being destitute of objects interesting to the politician, presents nothing of so much importance as the change of situation and opinion, visible in every part of our own country. That decline of trade, which every one might have foreseen, as the first consequence of peace, has already been severely felt. "Nothing is doing upon the river," is an observation that echoes and re-echoes from Limehouse to Temple Bar, and from Temple Bar to Limehouse. Some particular branches of manufactures have experienced no falling off; but, generally speaking, the flattering hopes of the manufactures have not only been disappointed, but they have the mortification to find, that war, even with the Income Tax, would have been preferable to such a peace as that to which his Majesty's ministers have submitted. The situation of the ship-owners presents an object still more discouraging. This respectable body have published an account (Register, p. 559) of the diminution in the value of their property; and, though the ministers (Lord Castlereagh in particular) have thought proper to attribute the gloomy statement to the unfounded alarms of selfish individuals, we are persuaded the fears of the public will not so easily be removed, especially when that statement is fully confirmed by the concurrent testimony of the Special Committee of the East-India Directors, who, in their last report (of which we shall speak more at large by and by), have this remarkable observation: "If there is any well-founded claim on government, at this time, it is the fair and just claim of British ships and seamen, to provide (and not to deprive them of) the means of employment, in return for the great and meritorious services rendered during the war. British ships of four or five hundred tons and upwards, are fallen above thirty per cent. in value, in consequence of the peace." They add, that "the number now unemployed must be increased very considerably, when the transports and other private ships, in the service of the navy, have been discharged."—Now, his Majesty's ministers may assert, and re-assert, that the shipping has not diminished in value; but, they may rest assured, that, to all men of sense and candour, their assertions will be as sounding brass and a tinkling cymbal.

The truth is, the ministers now perceive, that their speculations upon peace were erroneous. That, in those speculations,

they were guided by Mr. Pitt we know (we speak with great deliberation); but, that Mr. Pitt himself is not *infallible* will, in a very short time, be readily allowed by all except those, who are presumptuous enough to assert, that to him, and him alone, "the king is indebted for the crown that he wears." Let us not, for a moment, be understood as wishing to detract from the talents or the integrity of Mr. Pitt; but, as it is the lot of human nature to err, so we are well assured, that he has erred, and most grossly erred, in advising and supporting the peace of Amiens; and, as to the other point, what man with a loyal heart in his bosom can brook the assertion, that his Majesty's crown has ever depended upon the breath of a subject?

To return to the speculations on the peace: if any one will look back to the month of October last, he will find, that the ideas of *peace* and of an *increase of trade* were inseparably united. But, we rest not on newspaper reflections and the mottos of transparencies; we refer to the more sober observations of pamphleteers, and the declarations of ministers themselves, made in his Majesty's Parliament. They did, indeed, admit, that, in certain branches of trade, the peace would cause a diminution; but that, "upon the *whole*" (a phrase in great vogue amongst them), there would be a considerable increase; particularly with the States of America, in which branch we have no hesitation to assert, that there has already been a diminution of *one-third*. They now find, from the reports of the East-India Company, the West-India merchants, the ship-owners, and manufacturers in general, and from that infallible criterion, the receipts of the customs, that the commerce of the country has, from the opening of the negotiations to the present hour, experienced a regular and rapid decline. To remedy this evil they are, we suspect, about to have recourse to a sort of state quackery, which, though it may, for some few months or years, prolong their political existence, will, we greatly fear, end in the total ruin of their country.

In the Letter to Lord Hawkesbury, relative to our future commerce with France and her dependant allies (Register, p. 401) is the following passage: "The system of France is, indeed, levelled more immediately against the navigation laws of England. As a compensation for shipping them away, we may, probably, obtain certain relaxations in favour of our manufactures."—The letter (to which we beg leave to refer the reader) then proceeds

to show from what causes this temptation will be likely to succeed; and we have not the least doubt, that the commercial arrangements with France, which are said now to be in contemplation, will but too fully verify the remarks we then made. The decline in point of navigation this ministry of shreds and patches, of shifts and expedients, might, for some time, resist. The ship-owners are, in point of political influence, much inferior to the manufacturers; the ships lie and rot out of sight, or are sold to some foreign country, whither the sailors quietly go with them, leaving the parishes, unburdened with their maintenance. Just the contrary is the case with respect to the property and persons of manufacturers, whose clamorous voices would, at a single whoop, send the present timid legion scampering from the benches of the treasury. Knowing, therefore, the weakness of their nerves, and yet forcibly impelled by their "hereditary disposition to 'office,'" there is no expedient they will not try, no sacrifice of national dignity, honour, or safety, that they will not make, in order to obtain some sort of mitigation of the sentence of exclusion, which the French have pronounced on our goods. They must too have money; no matter how. Their plan is to "husband our resources," amongst which they do not reckon either ships or sailors. Nor must we suppose, that Buonaparté, has been so totally engrossed by the ceremonies of Notre-Dame as to overlook what has lately passed in the Chapel of St. Stephen. He, prudent youth, "wears his eye thus; not too suspicious, yet not too secure;" and, he may, possibly, perceive, that, unless he enables his pacific friends to buoy up the hopes of the nation, those friends may, perchance, be obliged to give place to men of a less complying disposition; to men who would once more have recourse to arms, who would try, at least, one more battle, rather than undermine our navigation, the only remaining pillar of our power and our independance.—Should we have a commercial treaty with France, we have here described its causes, its foundation, and its effects, the "tone, the terms, and the "time," must depend on Mr. Otto and Lord Hawkesbury.

In our intended remarks on the late administration of the consistent Mr. Dundas, we have, as our readers will perceive by turning a few pages back, been, in some degree, anticipated by the East India Company, who, when he considers their former docility and gratitude, the right honourable

gentleman will certainly forbear to term "*a confederacy.*" Having said thus much, we refer our readers to the report (see page 622), to which we allude, and to which, after having made some further extracts from it, we shall, with Mr. Dundas's leave, subjoin a few elucidatory remarks.

By a reference to our Parliamentary summary, it will be perceived, that there has, during the last week, been no debate of much public importance. "Little things, however, are great to little men," and, therefore, from a mixture of respect and compassion for the enemies of bull-baiting, we must say a word or two on the fate of the Bill, brought in to Parliament for the purpose of abolishing that ancient, hardy, and anti-puritanical sport, and of extirpating a race of animals, which are peculiar to this island, and peculiarly characteristic of its people. The whole creation does not afford another race of animals so reserved and yet so affectionate and so faithful, so gentle and yet so brave.—The second reading of the bill was opposed by Mr. Windham in a speech, which, together with that of Mr. Frankland, we hope to see published at length, and which certainly produced the rejection of the bill. Sir Richard Hill and Mr. Courtenay, Mr. Wilberforce and Mr. Sheridan, supported the bill!!!! But even this most wonderful union of piety and wit made but a feeble resistance against the reason and eloquence which it had to oppose. Whether Mr. Sheridan came unprepared, or to whatever cause it may be ascribed, he certainly made a worse figure than on almost any former occasion. The consciousness of his inferiority deprived him of the temper, which he usually preserves, and hurried him into an observation, that if Mr. Windham had made as good a speech on the treaty of Amiens, he would not have been left in so small a minority; entirely overlooking the very important circumstance, that the ministers did not then withdraw and leave the combattants a clear ring and no favour, a line of conduct, which when the fairer and nobler sport of bull-baiting was at stake, they now thought it incumbent on them to pursue.

In France things appear to be rather in a state of uncertainty. Not that we give credit to all the rumours about plots and conspiracies against the life of the Corsican; but, from the facts, which daily transpire, it is very certain that great discontent does prevail amongst those turbulent men, who, after having been the comrades of Buonaparté, cannot so easily submit to his mandates. This was precisely

the situation of Cromwell ; his comrades, too, were equally dextrous with the pen and with the sword, and whoever has read the history of his times, will remember, that the latter part of his life was, by the dread he entertained of those men, rendered an uninterrupted series of quietudes and alarms. One discontented general is more to be feared than the whole gang of those Athiests and Jacobins, who compose the National Institute. We cannot say, that we feel much anxiety for the safety of Buonaparté's person ; that is, in fact, no affair of ours ; but we have no scruple in declaring, that, if the lawful sovereign of France is not to be restored, we most sincerely wish, that monarchy may, under some shape or other. The *Legion of Honour* appears to be intended as the basis of a new order of nobility, which, it is more than probable, are meant to be, in time, rendered hereditary ; and, if we could suppose the members of this order free from baseness and bloody-mindedness, we should be ready to confess that a better foundation for an aristocracy could not have been invented, if indeed, that can be called an invention, which is evidently borrowed from the feudal system.

The news from St. Domingo is, for what reason we know not, regarded, by some persons in this country, as inauspicious to France. In the resistance of Toussaint we confess ourselves to have been somewhat disappointed ; not by the disposition of that negro, but by the conduct of the French towards him, which has been so very different from what we expected. His resistance has not arisen from his wish to make the colony independent of France, but from his resentment at being totally excluded from the new government, and deprived of all the honours, power, and emolument, which he had so long enjoyed. He has, as was to be expected, given the French army great trouble, and will, as we before observed, probably continue to do so for some months longer ; but he must be finally subdued. He cannot long keep an army on foot without communication with the sea, which communication is completely cut off. His enemies, in the meanwhile, are strengthening themselves even by superabundant precautions. They have, lest merchant ships should avoid the island, sent off 25 sail to the United States of America for a supply of provisions, and, as the merchants of that country had not the most exalted opinion of French faith, the Government has engaged to furnish the provisions, and has actually appointed

commissioners to superintend the execution of the contract ! The Spaniards, too, have been called upon for their pledge of fealty. We predicted in the Register, p. 351, that Leclerc and Villaret would replenish their military chest by drawing up La Vera Cruz, or the Havannah. As if for the express purpose of fulfilling this prediction, Villaret now tells us (see his letter), that the Spanish Governor of the Havannah has cheerfully supplied the French fleet and army with *half a million of dollars*. Where then are the predictions of those, who assured us, that the French expedition would fail for want of money ? Half a million of dollars is, indeed, but a trifling sum compared with what was expended in the expedition of Mr. Dundas and General Maitland. Those great statesmen and heroes expended, in St. Domingo, more gold than lead. The gold they employed weighed about 25 tons ; much more than all the balls and bullets they ever fired at the enemy. Had they charged the cannons and muskets with guineas, and discharged them at the negroes, with good aim, Lord Hawkesbury and Mr. Addington would have had another island wherewith to purchase the ruin and disgrace of their country.

To return to the French expedition : we said too (Register, p. 255), in answer to those who contended, that the French ships must come home to be repaired, that they would find those repairs at the Havannah ; and Villaret now tells us, that, as fast as his ships have stood in need of repairs, he has sent them thither for that purpose, where they have been immediately attended to, of course, at the expense of Spain. Thus the American government supplies them with lumber and provisions, the Spanish with ship yards and money, and the Dutch with ships and sailors. The whole maritime and colonial world, England and her colonies excepted, is at the mercy, is absolutely the property of France. And yet there are men weak enough to hope to resist a power like this by the silent and unseen operation of British capital !

One act of the French government is entitled to our most unqualified approbation, namely, the law which it is about to pass for maintaining negro slavery, in the islands now to be restored by Great-Britain. We say this, not only because we wish to see no alterations whatever in the system of negro slavery, but also because, a contrary conduct on the part of France, would have produced great and immediate injury to England, by alienating the im-

mense property, which our countrymen possess in those islands. To the puritans and citizens of the world, to those who can see no distinction between whites and blacks, between men and monkeys, this decree will certainly be a subject of severe censure; but we trust it will completely frustrate the hopes of those meddling and canting innovators, whose "humanity" has spread devastation and bloodshed over countries, which, 'till visited by the puritanical pest, know neither strife, poverty, nor sorrow.

*The very valuable communication of X. could not be divided, and we were, therefore, obliged, though with great reluctance, to defer it 'till next week. Several other papers have been received, and shall be attended to without loss of time.*

#### PROMOTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS.

*May 13.—Wm. Rawlins, Esq. (one of the Sheriffs of London) a Knight. May 19. Major General Eyre Coote, a Knight of the Bath. Thomas Manners Sutton, Esq. (Solicitor General) a Knight. John Finhorn, Esq. of Ningwood-house, in the Isle of Wight, a Knight. Charles Arbuthnot, Esq. to be His Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary to the Court of Sweden.*

#### BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

*Births.—Lately, Right Hon. Lady Frances Vandeleur, of a daughter. On Tuesday the 18th inst. at Felton Park, Northumberland, the seat of Ralph Riddell, Esq. Mrs Riddell, of a son and heir. Monday, the Lady of Sir Thomas Barret Lennard, Bart. of a son, at his house, in Park-street. On the 19th inst. the Lady of William Baker, Esq. M. P. at Bayfordbury, Herts, of a son.*

*Marriages.—On Thursday, at St. Pancras Church, Mr. W. G. Rose, of the House of Commons, to Miss F. Davies, of Guilford-street. Last week, at St. Mary-le-bonne Church, the Hon. Augustus Richard Butler Danvers, to Miss Elizabeth Sturt. On Wednesday last, at Arlington Court, Gloucestershire, V. Conolly, Esq. of Portland-place, to Miss Matilda Dunkin, daughter of Sir William Dunkin.*

*Deaths.—On Tuesday, in the 20th year of her age, at her father's house in St. James's-square, Miss Thornton, eldest daughter of Samuel Thornton, Esq. M. P. At the beginning of last week after a short illness, at the apartments of her sister at Somerset house, Miss Margaret Forrest, of Binfield, Berkshire. On Monday last, at Fladong's Hotel, in Oxford-street, the Hon. Frederick Stuart, Member for the County of Bute. On Thursday week, at his house in the City of York, aged 72, Edward Bedingfield, Esq. son of the late Sir Henry Bedingfield, Bart. of Oxburgh, Norfolk. On Thursday, in Edward-street, Portman-square, in the 78th year of her age, Mrs. Mary Noel, sister of the late, and aunt of the present Viscount Wentworth. On Tuesday last, at Temsford-hall, Bedfordshire, Lady Payne, widow of the late Sir Gillies Payne.*

#### PRICES OF THE PUBLIC FUNDS.

	SAT.	MON.	TUE.	WED.	THU.	FRI.
Bank Stock .....	—	—	—	—	—	183
3 per Cent Red. Ann.	73½	73½	72½	72½	—	72½
3 per Cent Consols..	74	73½	73½	73	—	73
4 per Cent Consols..	89	88½	88½	88	—	88
5 per Cent Ann.....	102½	101½	102	103	—	104
Imp. 3 per Cent Ann.	—	71	70½	—	—	72
5 per Cent 1797....	103½	103	102½	102½	—	103½
Bank Long Ann....	20½	20½	20½	20½	—	20½
Bank Short Ann....	—	4½	5	4½	—	5
India Stock.....	—	—	—	—	—	—
Omnium.....	1	½	½	1	—	—
Exch. Bills, New...	—	5	—	—	—	5
Irish 5 per Cent....	—	—	—	—	—	—

AMERICAN STOCKS.—Eight pr. c 111½.

FRENCH STOCKS.—Tiers Consolidé, 57 f.

#### LONDON COURSE OF EXCHANGE.

AMSTER. C.F. 10 13 2 us.	LEGHORN .....	51½
D°, at sight 10 9	NAPLES.....	44
ROTTERDAM.. 10 14 2 us.	GENOA.....	47½
HAMBURGH.. 32 10 2½ us.	LISBON.....	67½
ALTONA ... 32 11 2½ us.	OPORTO .....	67
PARIS 2 us .. 23 14 liv.	DUBLIN.....	13
BOURDEAUX,d° 23 15	VENICE, 59½ livrespiccole	
CADIZ .... 34½ in paper	effective per £. ster.	
DITTO .... 36½ effective	BILBOA.....	30 D°
MADRID .. 34½ in paper	PALERMO .....	
DITTO .... 36½ effective	AGIO, bank on Hol. p.	

#### PRICES CURRENT IN LONDON.

	s. s.	s. s.
Eng. Wheat per q. 48 to 69	Hops per cwt...	73 to 98
Foreign..... 50 .. 68	Hay per load .....	32 to 80
Rye. .... 30 .. 35	Beef, per stone....	5s. to 10
Barley. .... 30 .. 35	2d. 6s. 4d.	
Malt ..... 40 .. 52	Mutton .... 6s. to 7s 2d.	
Oats ..... 12 .. 22	Veal .... 6s. 4d. to 7s. 6d.	
Pease..... 35 .. 37	Pork.... 6s. od. to 7s. 8d.	
Beans..... 31 .. 38	Tallow .... 4s. od.	
Flour per sack .. 40 .. 53	Average of Sugar	
Seconds..... 45 .. 50	per cwt.... 37s. d.	
Coals per chal... 30 .. 38		

Bread Nine Pence Halfpenny the Quarter Loaf.

Porter Four Pence Halfpenny per Pot.

#### OBSERVATIONS ON THE WEATHER,

Near Guildford, in Surrey, for the Month of May, 1802.

Days. M's Age	Weather.	Winds.		Barometer.		Thermometer. Degrees.	
		M.	A.	M.	A.	M.	A.
20	Fair.	SSE	SW	29,87	29,88	51	53
21	very Fine.	SE	S	29,9	29,9	66	69
22	very Fine.	E	E	29,9	29,9	72	76
23	Fine.	E	E	29,9	29,9	67	68
24	Fair.	E	E	29,91	29,91	65	64
25	Fine.	E	E	29,85	29,8	64	66
26	Fine.	E	E	29,77	29,78	70	73

● New Moon ○ 1st. Quar. ○ F. Moon. △ last Quar.